GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3227
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2004
IDENTIFICATION OF BELOW POVERTY LINE PEOPLE
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Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the actual poor people are not getting desired assistance for their subsistence as the number of the poor is shown quite less while laying down norms for the identification of BPL category people as a result of which they are deprived of the benefits of many schemes and have to face continued hardship in life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of drafts made so far regarding selection of people in BPL category;

(d) the details regarding the respective dates on which they were implemented;

(e) whether poverty is linked with movable and immovable properties;

(f) if so, the norms in this regard; and

(g) the types of expenditures taken into reckoning while determining the Income capacity of BPL families?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a)to(g): The estimation of incidence of Poverty is done by the Planning Commission a t National and State level using the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee) and applying it to consumption expenditure data from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure. The Commission defines the criteria for BPL, based on the average per capita consumption expenditure, which meets the specified per capita daily calorie requirements alongwith a minimum of non-food expenditure. The calorie norms were fixed at 2400 Kilo calories per capita per diem for rural areas and 2100 Kilo calories for urban areas. The poverty line defined in this way covers the expenditure on food and non food items (such as fuel, clothing, housing, health, education and social services). At the National level, the average poverty line adopted in urban areas for 1999-2000 is Rs.454.11 per capita per month though there are separate state-specific poverty lines for urban and rural areas. However, under SJSRY, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation the beneficiaries are identified, through house to house survey among these BPL persons on the basis of certain economic and non economic parameters.